



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB

A National Historic Place

BY ERWIN WEBER

PUBLISHED BY ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB ORIGIN - 1897

Captain Blunt was introduced to the social life of the community soon after he assumed command of the Rock Island Arsenal on March 7, 1897. One month later Dr. G.G. Craig entertained a number of friends whom he had invited to meet Captain Stanhope E. Blunt, the Commandant of the Rock Island Arsenal. In addition to the honored guest, also in attendance were Captain Russell and Lieutenant Horney from the Rock Island Arsenal, Dr. W.D. Middleton and Dr. A.W. Cantwell from Davenport, and C.H. Deere from Moline. According to The Argus, April 17, 1897, "The occasion proved a most pleasant one in all respects." Three months later, the following article appeared in The Moline Daily Dispatch on July 14, 1897, titled "The Game of Golf"⁴.

When Lieutenant Pierce came to Rock Island Arsenal some time ago from New York, he brought with him a liking for and a knowledge of the interesting game of golf, well known and popular in the east, but very little known or understood in this part of the country, and by a good many people here looked upon as a frivolous invention of the evil one to lead men's minds away from their business and kill time that should be spent in more profitable pursuits. Captain Blunt, Commandant of Rock Island Arsenal; Captain Horney; Lieutenant Pierce; and some of the other officers on the island; have formed a golf club, and they have been for some little time entertaining their friends of Rock Island, Davenport, and Moline, with the sport of putting the hard, white little rubber ball around the links. The open ground of the upper end of the island might be thought to offer a better place for the playing of this game than is elsewhere to be found, but the links that the club has laid out and is using embrace, in the main, the avenues and roadways of the section that is occupied by the officer's quarters and the roadways of the island. The links are a mile in length, and very fair. There is a prospect that a taste for this type of open-air sport may become, in some degree, popular among the people in this part of the country.

The birthday of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club may well be Saturday, July 24, 1897⁵. On that historic day, Captain and Mrs. Stanhope E. Blunt entertained a company of 200 Tri-City friends at the Rock Island Arsenal in celebration of the opening of the golfing season. A reception for the ladies was held from 4 to 6 pm by Mrs. Blunt and her daughter, assisted by Mrs. Phil Mitchell, the Misses Dart of Rock Island, Mrs. Charles A. Barnard of Moline, Mrs. F.S. Smith of Davenport, Mrs. Horney, and Mrs. Pierce of Arsenal Island.

After the conventional formalities and upon the arrival of the gentlemen, the guests adjourned to the link in front of the officers' quarters. All of the gentlemen were dressed in outing or golfing costumes; Captain Blunt, however, being the only one wearing the regulation scarlet coat. Two games were played by Mr. James F. Lardner, Mr. John Van Patten of Davenport as well as Mr. and Mrs. Butterworth of Moline. The games were only trial ones for practice, though it promised that more spirited ones would follow in the future. The course covered a distance of 1,945 yards.

Although a number of changes have been made from time to time in the arrangement of the course, the holes follow in general the original pattern laid out by Captain Stanhope English Blunt, later a colonel.

Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

Nov 24 1897

Mr. M. Y. Cady Mr. _____

1	2	HOLES.	1	2
7		1. River. 237 Yds.		
8		2. Dial. 315 Yds.		
9		3. Long. 461 Yds.		
5		4. Glade. 161 Yds.		
8		5. Barracks. 199 Yds.		
8		6. Hill. 216 Yds.		
5		7. Pond. 171 Yds.		
6		8. Meadow. 210 Yds.		
9		9. Home. 188 Yds.		
65		TOTALS.		
		GROSS.		
		HANDICAP.		
		NET.		

Scorer M. Y. Cady

M.Y. Cady's score card (actual size) at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club dated November 24, 1897. Cady paid \$5.00 in dues when he joined the club on October 18, 1897.

Golf course design and construction was a remarkable feat in the early 1900's; only the summer months could be used and limited equipment was available at the time. For the first year or two, most of the upkeep was done by the soldiers. Every weed that stuck out its head was promptly courtmartialed. Boulders and stones were removed. They were piled up in mounds, later called bunkers. Dirt and sod were piled over the mounds to cover the rocks. Areas dug out in front from which the sod was removed became sand traps. All cutting was done by horse-drawn mowers. To manicure greens, the hooves of horses were covered with huge floppy "web feet" to prevent marking and scuffing of greens. The tees were equipped with elevated boxes of wet sand to form the tees. With the invention of the wooden tee in 1899, the wet sand boxes were no longer needed. However, the wooden tees did not become popular and were not widely used until the early twenties.

On September 9, 1897, the tabulated scores of the first tournament of the men's handicaps appeared in an article in The Argus entitled "Golf Club Games"⁶. It stated that the golf games

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB - 1897

President

CPT Stanhope E. Blunt

Vice Presidents

F.S. Smith, Phil Mitchell, Willard Velie

Secretary and Treasurer in Charge of Course

LT William S. Pierce

Secretary in Charge of Matches and Competition

LT Odus C. Horney

Handicapping Committee

LT William S. Pierce, Very Rev. Hamilton Schuyler, C.A. Barnard

at the Rock Island Arsenal course now constituted an absorbing topic among those participating and the greatest of interest was manifested in the tournaments just entered upon. Mr. Good, of Moline, was the winner of the tournament and was possessor of the prize, a large silver loving cup, until the next tournament, which was held September 18, 1897. The finals for the men's handicap cup occurred Nov. 18, 19 and 20, and the finals for the ladies handicap Nov. 11, 12, and 13. November 25 was the Thanksgiving tournament. Three cups were offered by the club for competition in 1897. The men played each Saturday and competed for the silver loving cup. The ladies prize was a cut-glass vase. They played every Wednesday. The winner of any match was not allowed to enter another during the tourney, until the final match between winners to decide prize ownership. The article also stated the club was known as the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club and listed its officers: President - CPT Blunt; Vice Presidents - F.S. Smith, Phil Mitchell, Willard Velie; Secretary and Treasurer in Charge of Course - LT William S. Pierce; Secretary in Charge of Matches and Competition - LT Odus C. Horney; Handicapping Committee - LT William S. Pierce, Very



The Commanding General's residence at the Rock Island Arsenal is now designated as Quarters One.

Rev. Hamilton Schuyler and C.A. Barnard. The handicap tournaments were colorful events. The men wore red coats while playing, and the ladies were clad in colorful dresses. In addition to CPT and Mrs. Stanhope E. Blunt, LT and Mrs. Odus O. Horney, LT and Mrs. William L. Pierce, Miss Frances Blunt and Miss Evelyn Blunt from the Rock Island Arsenal, quite a number of men and ladies from three cities took part in the tournament. The presentation of the trophies was made at Captain Blunt's residence now known as Quarters One. The cups were beautifully engraved.

On Monday, September 20, 1897, an article in The Argus stated that there was plenty of enthusiasm awakened about the game of golf in this community when the second of the handicap matches for the men's silver loving cup, offered by the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, was held⁷. The links were so conveniently designed that carriages were able to follow the game from tee to putting green throughout the entire course, and many spectators from the three cities took advantage of this feature. Around each green, carriages were

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB MEMBERSHIP ROSTER - 1897

Ainsworth, Harry	Davis, Samuel, S.	Keller, Charles	Putnam, W.C.
Allen, Frank	Deere, Charles H.	Lane, Joe R.	Robertson, Chas, M
Allen, William L.	Eyster, George L.	Lardner, James F.	Rosenfield, Walter
Barnard, Charles A.	Ficke, Charles A.	Lynde, C.F.	Ryan, Edgar H.
Bernhardi, Carl	French, George W.	Marshall, Wm H.	Schmidt, Oswald
Bernhardi, Charles	Gilman, Stephen F.	Martin, Mrs. W.H.	Smith, S.F.
Blunt, Stanhope E.	Good, John W.	McCullough, Frank	Stephens, G.A.
Butterworth, Wm.	Guyer, Edward H.	Mitchell, Philomen	Van Patten, John
Cable, R.R.	Harper, Stuart	Mixter, Frank	Velie, W.L.
Cady, John D.	Hass, Fred	Murphy, Mrs. T.A.	Vollmer, Henry
Chambers, Walter	Horney, Odus C.	Nott, Miss Elizabeth	White, Irvin S.
Carter, Charles C.	Huber, Otto	Nutting, James R.	Wiman, W.D.
Comegys, Joseph P.	Hurst, Elmer W.	Pierce, William S.	Woockock, E.W.
Craig, Mrs. G.G.	Karr, Ira	Petersen, Max D.	
Crampton, Mrs. R.C.	Keator, Mrs. S.J.	Preston, James R.	

continually grouped, as the players in whom their occupants were interested approached, thence passing behind the next tee to observe the drives, applauding the successes and bemoaning the slices and fouls. The more energetic followed the players on foot, where every shot would be more critically witnessed and encouragements to the players more continually offered; the latter, as some few had not yet reached the class of Whigham⁸ and MacDonald⁹, being occasionally mingled with condolences. The day was perfect, the course in fine condition, the putting green was like velvet, with which the gay dresses of the ladies and the bright red golfing coats of the men contributed to an attractive scene and the good humor of all. The match began about 2:30, and owing to the great number of competitors--35--was not completed until nearly 6 o'clock. It resulted in a tie, which was played off during the week, between LT Pierce of the Rock Island Arsenal and Mr. Samuels, of Moline, both having a net score of 101 for 18 holes. LT Pierce won the match.

The following year, nine holes were completed. These fairways followed pretty much the

150

Receipts

1897

Capt S. E. Blunt	5 00
Phil. Mitchell	5 00
F. J. Kinney	5 00
Lieut. Chas. Keller	5 00
S. F. Smith	5 00
G. G. Craig	5 00
J. R. Nutting	5 00
S. J. Keator	5 00
R. R. Cable	5 00
Chas. Skinner	5 00
H. S. Cable	5 00
J. A. Murphy	5 00
W. C. Putnam	5 00
Fred. Haas	5 00
E. W. Woodcock	5 00
John D. Cady	5 00
H. A. Ainsworth	5 00
C. A. Ficke	5 00
Chas. M. Robertson	5 00
John H. Van Patten	5 00
C. F. Lynde	5 00
S. S. Davis	5 00
Lieut. Horney	5 00
	115 00

115 00

151

Expenses

1897

July	14 Card board score cards	60 ✓
"	20 Postage stamps	1 75 ✓
"	24 Shavers	1 00 ✓
"	" Postage stamps	1 00 ✓
"	30 Repair to club house	16 00 ✓
Aug	4 Water cooler	3 00 ✓
"	" 2 cups	30 ✓
"	" Postage stamps	2 00 ✓
"	" Envelopes	1 10 ✓
"	16 100 Copies Rules	6 00 ✓
"	17 6 doz Silvertown bells	18 90
"	" Express on same	90
"	19 2 Blank books	2 50 ✓
"	24 Dies, Shell & flame	24 00 ✓
	79 05	
	35 95	
	Bal on hand	

115 00

List of receipts and expenses in July and August of 1897 at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

line of what is still called the old or "inside" nine. The course had a clubhouse, tees, cop bunkers, sand bunkers, and hedge bunkers. The total length of the course was 2,833 yards. Each hole was named according to its characteristics or setting. The names for the original nine holes remain to this day. For example, Hole #1 called "River" runs along the shore of the Mississippi River. Hole #2 is named "Dike" because the tee is located on top of a dike protecting the island from floods. Hole #3 is designated as "Mound", #4 is "Pool", #5 is "Lone Tree", #6 is "Barracks", #7 is "Hill", #8 is "Pond" and #9 is "Home". The first Club tournament was held in 1898. Lieutenant O.C. Horney was men's champion. Ladies' champion was Mrs. W. H. Martin. The club had fifty-eight members in 1897. They paid \$5.00 each. Notice the list of expenditures on page 18 for July and August of 1897.

Major Blunt's invitation to some prominent area residents to play golf on Arsenal Island was so well received that a club was organized and the course was extended to eighteen holes in the spring of 1902. A booklet was published in July 1902 depicting the Officers, By-Laws, Local Rules, and Members of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.¹⁰

ORIGINAL BY-LAWS - 1902

ARTICLE I. NAME

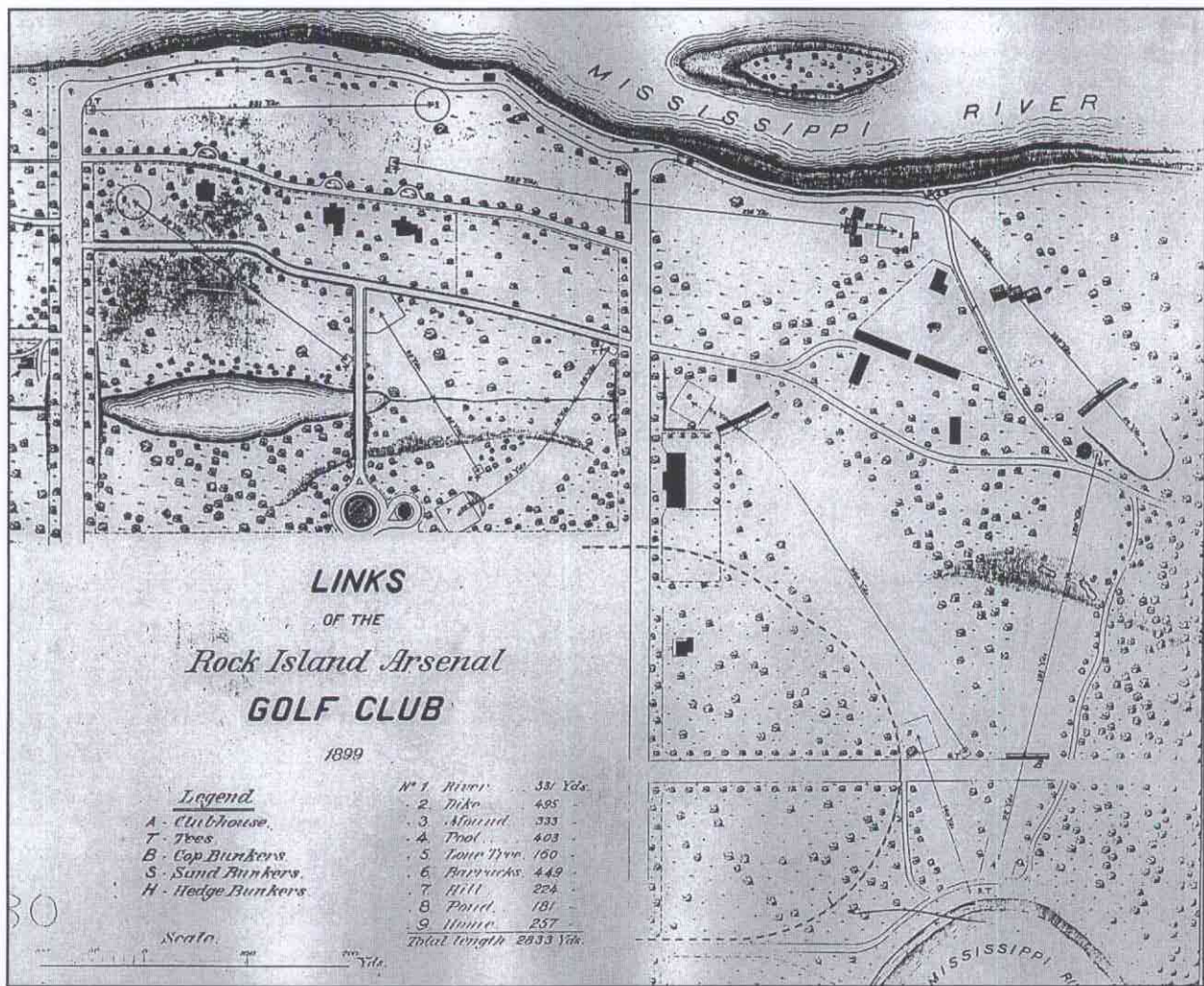
The club shall be known as "The Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club"

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS

1. The commanding officer of the Rock Island Arsenal shall be President of the Club.
2. The President will designate from among the officers on duty at the Rock Island Arsenal officers to act as Secretary and Treasurer of the Club, who will exercise the usual functions of such office until a new designation may be made by the President.
3. The President will designate from among the officers on duty at the Rock Island Arsenal one who, under his direction, shall have charge of the course and keep it in order.
4. The President will designate from among the officers on duty at the Rock Island Arsenal one who shall have charge of matches and other stated contests.
5. The President will designate from among the non-resident members three Vice-Presidents.
6. A Handicap Committee of three members, to be designated by the President, shall determine the handicaps allowed each competitor in every Club match or tournament. To the Handicap Committee will be submitted for decision any disputed points that may arise on the course regarding play, or any interpretations of the general rules of golf, or of the special rules of the Club.
7. The officers mentioned in paragraphs 2,3,4,5, and 6 will perform their duties until other designations may be made by the President.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

1. The membership shall consist of resident and non-resident members.
2. The resident members shall be the officers of the army stationed at the Rock Island Arsenal, and the members of their families.
3. The non-resident members shall be such officers of the army or other gentlemen and



Map of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1899 depicting location of holes, greens, yardage, the clubhouse, tees, bunkers and rustic bridge.

such ladies as may, by the resident members, be elected by members of the Club.

4. The number of male members is limited to one hundred and fifty.

5. Any member desiring to propose a person for membership must give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary, who shall present the name of such a person and his residence to the President.

ARTICLE IV.

DUES

1. The annual dues of resident and non-resident members shall be \$15.00, payable to the Treasurer of the Club April 1st of each year, or upon election to membership of the Club.

2. A family ticket admitting as non-resident members the ladies of a member's family will be \$5.00 per year in addition to the member's dues.

3. The family ticket will also extend the privileges of the course to children over twelve years of age.

4. Young men over eighteen years of age, or those if younger who may participate in the regular matches, will not be included in a family ticket, but will pay full membership dues.

5. The annual dues of ladies, or of minors, except those covered by the preceding paragraph, who are not of the immediate family of a male member, will be \$5.00.

6. Dues of members joining the Club after September 30th will be one-half the amounts above specified for the remainder of that club year.

7. Members who, on account of a change in residence, are unable to enjoy the privileges of the Club will not be required to pay dues during such absence.

8. In case of failure to pay the annual dues by April 30th, the attention of the member will be invited to this Article of the By-Laws. If after such notice the dues are not paid by May 31st, such failure will be considered as a resignation from the Club.

9. In case of a failure of a new member to pay the annual dues within fifteen days after notice of election has been forwarded, attention will be invited to this Article of the By-Laws: if after such latter notice the dues are not paid within fifteen days additional, the election will be considered cancelled.

ARTICLE V.

VISITORS

1. The President of the Club may extend, upon the request of a resident or non-resident member, invitations to visitors to enjoy the privileges of the Club and course for such a period as he may think proper. Any member may personally introduce a visitor for twenty-four hours by writing his own and the visitor's name in the book kept in the clubhouse for that purpose.

2. By the term "visitor" is intended only a non-resident of the three neighboring cities. Residents of these cities can not be considered visitors there in, and should not be introduced as such to the club or course.

ARTICLE VI.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. A list of officers, committees, and members shall be kept posted in the clubhouse.

2. A copy of the Regulations and Local Rules shall be kept posted conspicuously in the clubhouse.

3. The tariff for caddies fees shall be fixed by the President, and be posted in the clubhouse.

4. The Club insignia shall be a silver shell and flame. The red coat shall have dark blue collar, the sleeves plain, without cuffs.

5. All complaints, other than those incident to matches, shall be made in writing to the Secretary, who shall submit them to the President.

J.A.G.O.
(18884)


THE ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB is hereby granted a LICENSE, revocable at will by the Secretary of War, to continue the use of the golf links on the ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL MILITARY RESERVATION, Illinois, and to erect on said reservation a new building, for the accommodation and use of said licensee, upon the following conditions:

1.---That the work herein permitted to be done shall be subject to the supervision and approval of the Commanding Officer, Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois; and the occupation of said reservation, incident to this license, shall be subject to such rules and regulations in the interest of good order as said Commanding Officer may from time to time prescribe.

2.---That any sum which may have to be expended, after revocation or relinquishment of this license, in putting any premises or property, hereby authorized to be occupied or used, in as good condition for use by the United States as it is at this date, shall be repaid by said licensee on demand.

3.---That said licensee shall have no property rights in the reservation or in the said building; but may upon the revocation or relinquishment of this license be required to remove said building and other property on said reservation which it may own, within such time as the Secretary of War may indicate; and upon its refusal, neglect, or inability to remove the same, the Secretary of War may cause such property to be removed, at the expense of said licensee; and no claim for damages against the United States, or any officer or agent thereof, shall be created by or made on account of such removal.

WITNESS my hand this 5th day of DECEMBER, 1905.


Secretary of War.

The original letter granting the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club a license to continue the use of the golf links on the Rock Island Arsenal Military Reservation, signed by William Howard Taft, Secretary of War, December 5, 1905.

The informal position of the local golfers as Colonel Blunt's guests was changed completely several years later in 1905, when William Howard Taft, Secretary of War, issued a license under which the Rock Island Golf Club (military and civilian) was authorized to continue to use the golf links and to erect a new building on Arsenal grounds, all subject to the supervision and approval of the Commanding Officer. Furthermore, if the license was ever revoked or relinquished, the property would have to be left in good condition and if necessary all buildings and property removed at the expense of the licensee.

Since the original small locker house had been destroyed by fire on October 11, 1905¹¹ officials of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club made a formal application on November 22, 1905, through military authorities, for the establishment of the Club on the military installation then and now known as "Rock Island Arsenal". In the article entitled "Fire at the Arsenal", The Argus printed the following:

In the early morning of October 11, 1905, fire of an unknown origin destroyed the clubhouse and the stables of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. The flames were observed at 3:00 a.m. By the time the fire fighting equipment arrived at the scene, the golf outfits of the 150 members of the Club and seven horses, one belonging to the government, four to Colonel Blunt, one to Major Baker, and one to Captain Thompson, perished in the stables. Three other animals were rescued and most of the carriages and harnesses were saved. Loss on the clubhouse was about \$1,800, and will be rebuilt. The golf outfits were valued at \$2,250. Loss on the stables was about \$2,000, and they will not be rebuilt.

Aside from requesting a new clubhouse, it was noted in the application for the license that the Club was organized in the spring or early summer of 1897 by a number of gentlemen and ladies from Davenport, Rock Island and Moline. It stated that the Club owed its beginning to the courtesies extended to its early members by Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt, the Commanding Officer of the Rock Island Arsenal. These benefits would flow back to the Arsenal through the association of the club members with the officers of the Arsenal. Colonel Blunt, in favorably recommending this approval of the application, stated that the grounds occupied by the Club were not then needed to meet the military needs of the War Department.

With the issuance of the license by William Howard Taft, Secretary of War, on December 5, 1905, the members of the Club realized that the continued occupancy of the Arsenal grounds by the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was not a "right". The future of the Club depended upon the cordial relationship between members of the "Arsenal Family" and the Club membership. This was a prerequisite to the continued support of the Club by the Arsenal Commanders and by those in higher authority. Cordial relationships were only engendered where all parties understood the problems existing among them. A mutual respect for the rights of others was an essential ingredient of cordial relationships. It was also noted that some of the "Arsenal Family" were extended certain privileges. It must not be forgotten that the Club members were enjoying, through the occupancy of the Arsenal grounds, privileges which are not enjoyed by the vast majority of the residents of the Quad Cities, a fact which has not passed without comment among them. Also, some of the "Arsenal Family" were called upon to sacrifice, to some degree, privacy in the quarters' area, and their families were exposed to some hazards created by the golfing membership.

HOUSE RULES.

1. Golf shoes will not be worn in the Assembly room.
2. Caddies shall be arranged in two classes by the Manager, and the fees shall be 15 and 10 cents per hour, respectively.
3. It is part of the caddie's duty to clean the clubs of the member who engages him.
4. Under no circumstances will a caddie receive an extra fee. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be dismissal.
5. Caddies can only be engaged through the Manager. They may be engaged by telephone, in which case they shall not be held longer than one-half hour beyond the time for which they were engaged. The caddie's time shall in all cases be computed from the time for which he was engaged and in no case shall the fee be less than ten cents.
6. Carriages or vehicles of any kind must not block the entrances to the Club House, but they must wait in the places provided for that purpose. Automobiles will enter and leave the grounds by the north driveway only.
7. No member or visitor shall be allowed to give any gratuity to any servant of the Club under any circumstances, and the servants are forbidden to receive such gratuities. Violation of this rule is sufficient cause for the servant's dismissal.
8. Coachmen, chauffeurs and caddies will not be allowed in the Club House or on the piazzas.
9. All duplicate locker keys will be charged for at the rate of 25 cents.

RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE TENNIS COURTS.

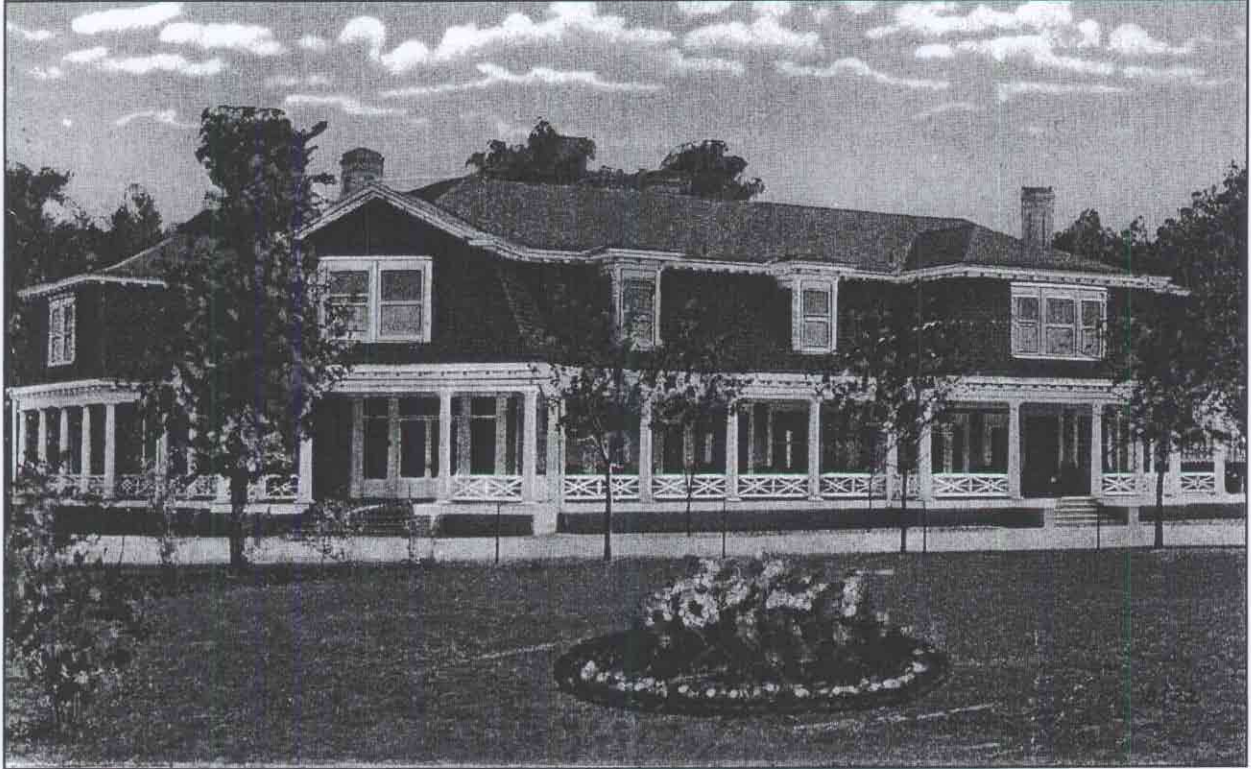
1. There shall be no playing with heeled shoes.
2. Players must vacate the courts at the end of the second set when others are waiting to play.
3. After 4:00 P. M. junior members shall not use the courts when regular members are waiting to play.

Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club,
April 28, 1906.

BY ORDER OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club "House Rules" for the new clubhouse. The document is dated April 28, 1906. The building was erected in 1906 at a cost of nearly \$17,000.

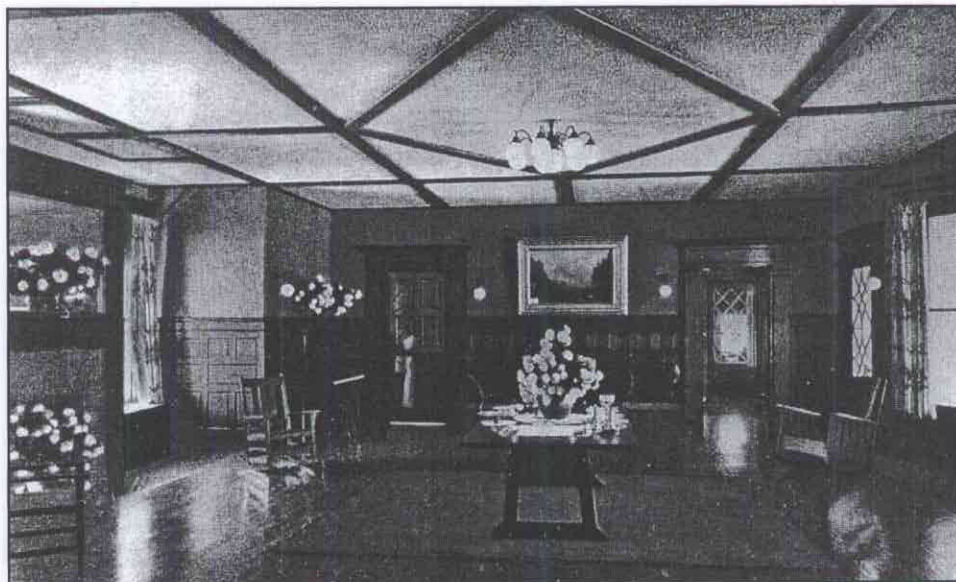
ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB - 1906



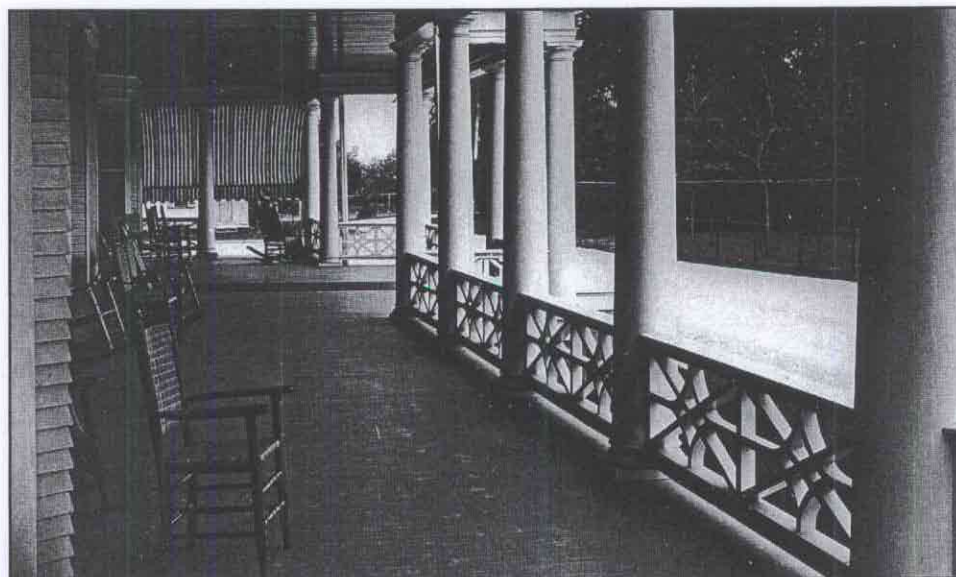
The new Rock Island Arsenal Golf Clubhouse in August 1906. View of the north and east fronts.

On April 24, 1906, Colonel S.E. Blunt gave the newspaper representatives of the three cities an opportunity to inspect the new \$17,000 clubhouse at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. It was erected to replace the former locker house which was destroyed by fire of an unknown origin on October 11, 1905. According to The Argus, the new quarters of the club compared favorably with any golf club in the west and with the exception of the dining room accommodations, the clubhouse is as fine as any in Chicago. The building was informally opened on Saturday, April 21, 1906.

The building was erected on the authority granted by Secretary of War Taft on December 5, 1905, who issued to the club a revocable license to continue to use the golf links, and to erect a new building. The application for this license was presented by the vice presidents of the club, and was approved by General William Crozier, Chief of Ordnance. Acting under the license, Colonel Blunt, and the officers of the club, began preparation at once for the erection of the new clubhouse, the building designed and erected under the direction of Colonel Blunt. The funds for the structure were secured by subscriptions amounting to \$5,115, the insurance on the building, \$1,000, together with \$240 in the treasury which was turned into the building fund, and a loan of \$6,000 which would be increased if necessary. In order to give the membership somewhat greater participation in club's administration, new by-laws were



The Assembly Room at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1906



The West Piazza (Porch) at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1906.

drafted. These provided for an entrance fee and an increase in the annual dues.

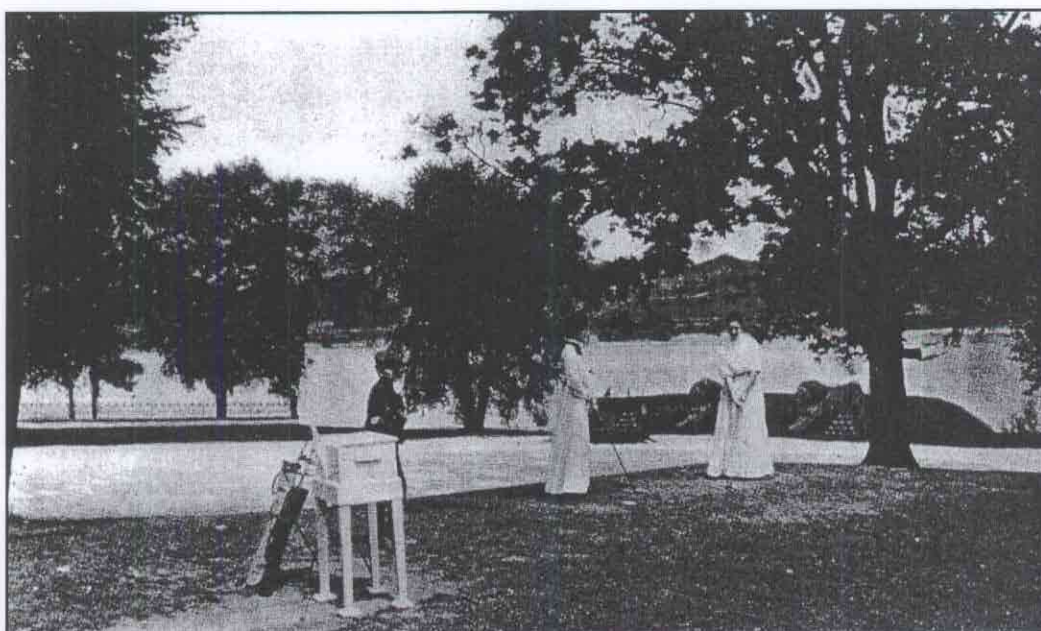
The new clubhouse was erected on practically the same site as that of the former locker house and stables, but some distance farther back from the street. It was a much larger and more conveniently arranged building than the one destroyed by fire. The main entrance opened into a large hall, opening into which was the office of the manager, George Aueroch. The hall was finished in yellow with oak woodwork. A telephone booth was conveniently placed with local and long distance service. Opening into the hall were the ladies parlor and the general assembly room. The ladies parlor, at the south of the main entrance, was finished in green and stained oak, with white quaker furniture. From the ladies parlor one entered the ladies toilet room, which was elegantly furnished with all conveniences. The locker room was at the right of the toilet room, and to the west. It contained 62 open screen lockers. Entrance to the general assembly room was possible through a door at the north of the locker room.

The general assembly room, (twenty-four by thirty-two feet) with projecting bay windows and a fireplace, was one of the most attractive in the clubhouse. It had high oak wainscoting, dark green walls, and a light oak paneled ceiling, the plastering being in a special stipple effect. The assembly room contained a large comfortable davenport, a piano, and a large writing desk, in addition to many chairs and a large center table. A green Wilton rug, in keeping with the finish of the room, covered the floor. Light was provided by a ceiling light of eight clustered globes, and numerous side lights.

Just to the rear of the assembly room was the side entrance, and from the vestibule opened into the men's cafe (fifteen by twenty-four feet). According to army regulations no liquor was to be sold on the grounds, but those of the members who cared to provide themselves with such refreshments, were able to keep their supplies in individual lockers for that purpose, in a small room adjoining the cafe. There were 115 of these special lockers. Mr. and Mrs. Hurley were employed to look after the serving of members and care for the building. The cafe itself was provided with several tables and modern appointments. The room was finished in the Baronial style, with red walls and light stippled ceiling. A large brick fireplace was built in one corner. South of the cafe was the kitchen, with a china pantry between the two rooms. It was not intended to serve meals at the clubhouse, but on occasions, the kitchen was convenient when a light luncheon was desired.

On the second floor, at the northwest corner, was a large room for 54 men's lockers. The room was heated during the winter for the accommodation of those who played during colder weather. The remainder of the building was not heated. In the center of the upper floor was a well appointed toilet room for men, while at the east end was the main locker room for men, containing 84 lockers, making a total of 138. The bath in the toilet room was designed from one which Colonel Blunt saw when at Fort Leavenworth, and was one of the most conveniently arranged possible.

The north and east sides of the building were surrounded by a large piazza (porch) from 14 to 20 feet wide. The building was painted a rich yellow in its first story, and the sloping walls of the second story and the roof were covered with shingles, red for the wall and a deep green



Ladies at the first tee, called "River" at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1906. In the foreground is a box filled with wet sand to form tees. Although various tees made of rubber, stamped metal, or wood were invented at the turn of the 20th century to tee up the ball more efficiently, boxes of dry sand with a container of water was still in use in the late thirties.

on the roof. The projecting gables and chimneys were most picturesque.

Some distance in the rear of the clubhouse, proper quarters for the caddies had been arranged, telephonic communication was established between the manager's office and the caddie house. Just back of the clubhouse, two excellent tennis courts were laid out for the use of members. A place for automobiles away from the drives was arranged some distance in the rear of the caddie house. The grounds about the clubhouse, and between the clubhouse and the Commandant's residence (Quarters One) were improved, grass had been planted and trees set, and by the close of the season the grounds represented an exceptionally attractive appearance. Each hole of the golf course was described in detail in a booklet titled Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club "Its Clubhouse and Its Course with Some Glimpses of Their Characteristic Beauties", August, 1906¹².

The Course

Hole 1. The first tee, about two hundred yards from the club house, and near a battery looking out over the Mississippi river, with Davenport in the distance, start the player over the first link of three hundred and thirty-one yards, and, being without bunkers, the bogey¹³ of four, while requiring accurate approach play, possesses no special difficulties.

Hole 2. Five hundred and five yards. A good drive - which must, however, be straight, as the course at this point is rather narrow - carries nearly to a bunker guarding a road two hundred and thirty-nine yards from the tee, and, if followed by an equally good brassy, the large bunkers guarding the green can be nearly reached, enabling an expert to hole out in five with one up on bogey. The first and second links follow the shore of the Mississippi, but only a badly pulled ball can reach the water.

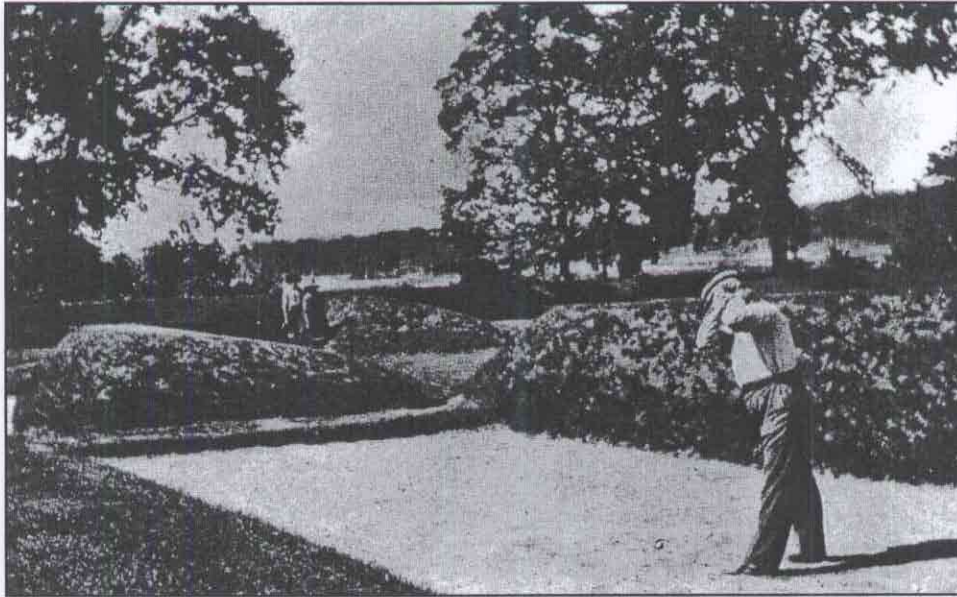
Hole 3. The course here leaves the river, and over bunkers one hundred and twenty yards from the tee, and others sixty yards from the hole, the link of three hundred and thirty-three yards ends in a picturesque green of large extent, known as The Mound. The bogey of four can only be made by careful play.

Hole 4. Called the Papoose¹⁴, leading back again to the river with green opposite a small island of that name, is exactly two hundred yards. It has a sand bunker one hundred and thirty-four yards from the tee, but is without other difficulties; with a perfect drive the bogey four is often beaten.

Hole 5. The Garden, four hundred and ninety-four yards, with bunkers to catch a poor drive, other bunkers midway on the course, and bunkers guarding the green, demands fine play to equal the bogey of six. The green, shaped like the quadrant of a circle, is terraced on the approach side, and also on the distant edges.

Hole 6. The Pasture. Leaving this tee the course for several links follows a road, which also bounds on its other side the tenth and eleventh holes. Sliced strokes do not therefore lead to any particular difficulties, but a pulled ball throws the player into the rough of the pasture, or beyond into a garden. A cop bunker with its sand pit, one hundred and thirty-seven yards from the tee, can only be negotiated by a carry of one hundred and fifty yards, but the course possesses no other difficulties except that found by an experienced player in a sloping putting green, demanding careful calculated putts if the bogey of five is to be equaled.

Hole 7. Four hundred and three yards. The Butte. A cop bunker punishes a poor drive, and sandpits at the sides of the elevated butte-like green demand accurate approaches. Only the



Sand trap near the second green at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1906. Early clubs were made out of wood. Notice the cop bunkers in the background.



"The Punch Bowl" Hole 10 at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1906.

better players can hope to beat the bogey of five.

Hole 8. Turning to the left the course again approaches the river, the link being called The Old Mill¹⁵, a landmark well known to river pilots in the past is in view. The green is guarded by a sand pit, but the link being only one hundred and seventy-three yards, the bogey of three should not be difficult.

Hole 9. The Midway, three hundred and forty-one yards. From an elevated tee at the river bank a drive should carry between two noble trees and over sand pits, and, followed by a brassy across a broad course, and over cop bunkers guarding the green, the bogey of five should be equaled. Over-approaches are, however, penalized by sand pits and a road beyond the green. This completes the golfer's outward journey of three thousand one hundred and fifty-one yards, the bogey being forty-two.

Hole 10. The tee is near a picturesque summer house. The drive is over a pond requiring a carry of 95 yards; the hole is therefore known as The Punch Bowl. The course is broad, with a bunker and a cross-road midway. A broad cop bunker guards the green. The length is six hundred and two yards, but the long driver has no special difficulty in equaling the bogey of six.

Hole 11. The Prairie. This link, as well as the tenth and twelfth, follows the same road that bounds the sixth and seventh holes on their right hand. Even sliced strokes will, therefore, give good lies, but pulled balls find, particularly for the twelfth link, thick woods. A cop bunker catches a bad drive, and a sand pit beyond is fatal to a poor second stroke. A bogey of five for three hundred and seventy-eight yards is, however, not difficult.

Hole 12. The Woods. The course is broad, and without any bunkers for the drive. A sand pit guarding the hole is broad, but the bogey of four for the three hundred and thirty-eight yards is generally equaled.

Hole 13. The Pool. Play is now resumed on the nine holes first laid out, the tee being just above the green of the third link. The course rises on the drive, sand pits on the side of the sloping hill catching short, pulled or sliced strokes. The link is crossed by the Main Avenue (known today as Rodman Avenue) of the Arsenal, with a cop bunker at the road, ninety-two yards from the hole. This can be carried on the second stroke, and the hole four hundred and three yards from the tee reached by good players. The bogey of five allows, however, for an approach stroke. Beyond, the green sand bunkers penalize an over-approach, and the arm of the Mississippi river forming the water power pool of the Arsenal may lead to additional difficulties.

Hole 14. Lone Tree. The tee is near a summer house on the bank of the river looking over the water power pool, the Arsenal power house, and the numerous factories of Moline in the distance. The green, one hundred and sixty-five yards distant, is reached without any intervening bunkers, except the main Arsenal road, and is guarded on the left by a noble oak. Bogey, three.

Hole 15. The Barracks, four hundred and forty-nine yards, is without bunker for the drive, and the course is unusually broad, giving a long player a good position for his effort to carry, on his second stroke, the bunker, three hundred and ninety-five yards from the tee, which guards the green. The green is sunken and most picturesque, with soldier barracks on one side, one of the main roads of the Arsenal bounding another, and with officers' quarters overlooking it beyond. The bogey is five, as it is not expected the guarding bunker will be carried by the average player on the second stroke.

Hole 16. The Hill. The tee is at the corner of the picturesque roadway called Hedge Lane, and near one of the officers' quarters; and the green at two hundred and forty yards from the tee, is a few yards from the Arsenal railway track in the rear of one of the principal shops. While not formidable, and easily surmounted by a good drive, the hill with a ditch at its bottom proves an

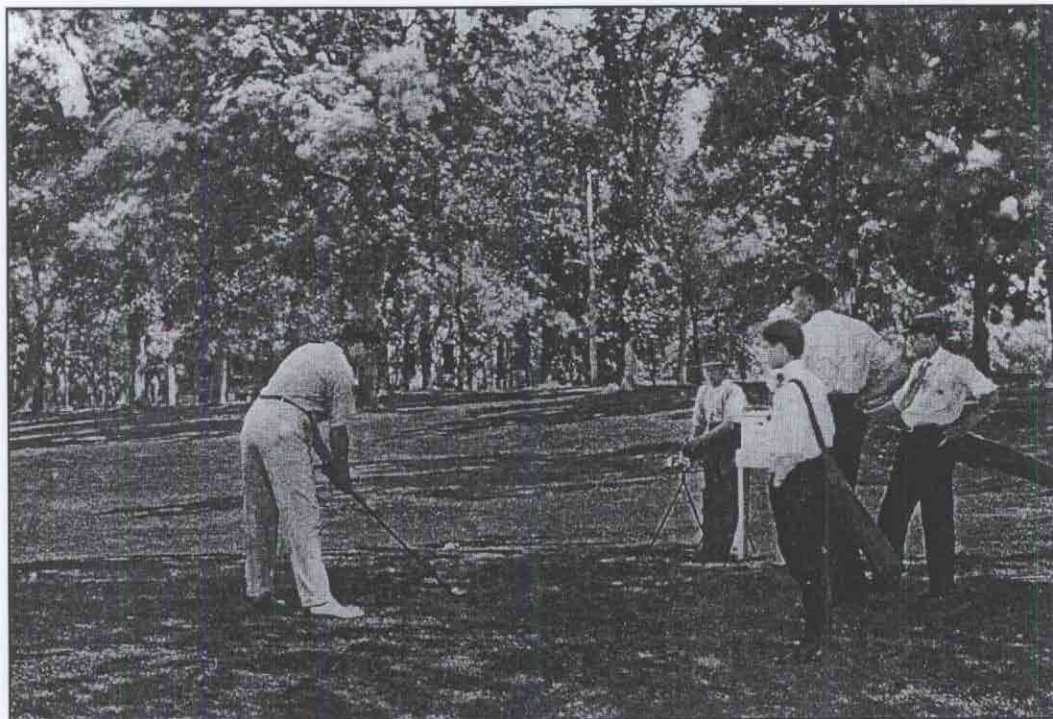
obstacle to the indifferent player. The green is guarded by sand pits at the right and left, and with one beyond to penalize on over-approach. The bogey is four.

Hole 17. The Dell, one hundred and eighty-one yards. The tee, at the crest of the same slope forming the hill of the preceding hole, looks down upon a green sheltered on two sides by woods, with a picturesque flat-arched bridge at its left. The green is extensive, and even the average player should have no difficulty in equaling the bogey of three.

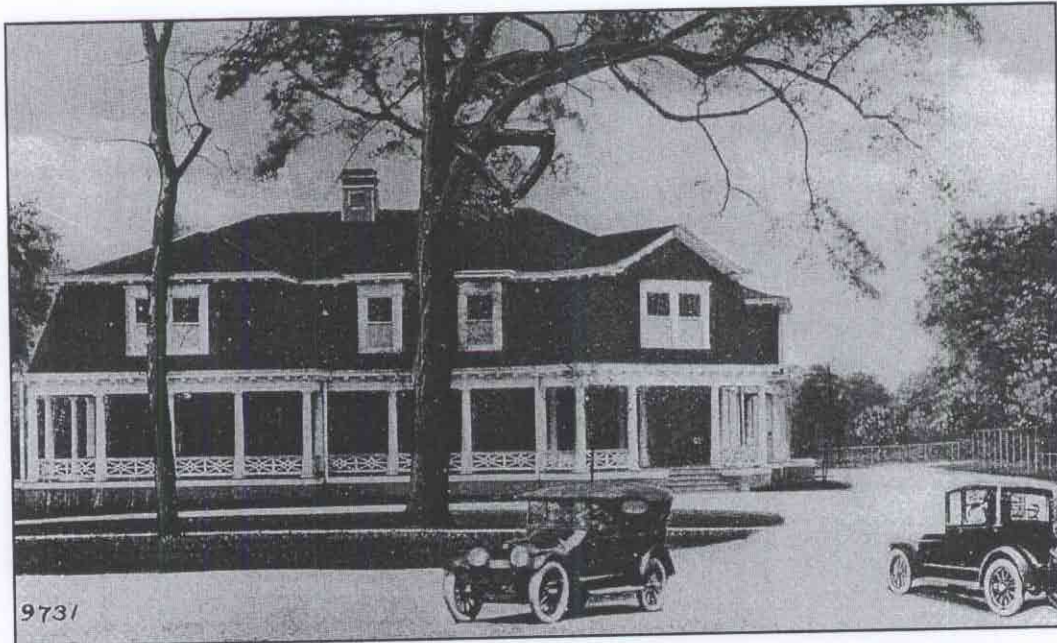
Hole 18. Home. Two hundred and fifty-seven yards. There are no bunkers excepting the roadway forming a prolongation of Hedge Lane, but trees and the yards of officers' quarters are pitfalls for wild strokes. The green is near the club house, and also near the gateway leading to the quarters of the commanding officer, and but a few yards from the first tee, completing the inward journey of three thousand and thirteen yards with a bogey of thirty-nine, making a total of six thousand, one hundred and sixty-four yards with a bogey of eighty-one for the entire course.

Charms of the Links

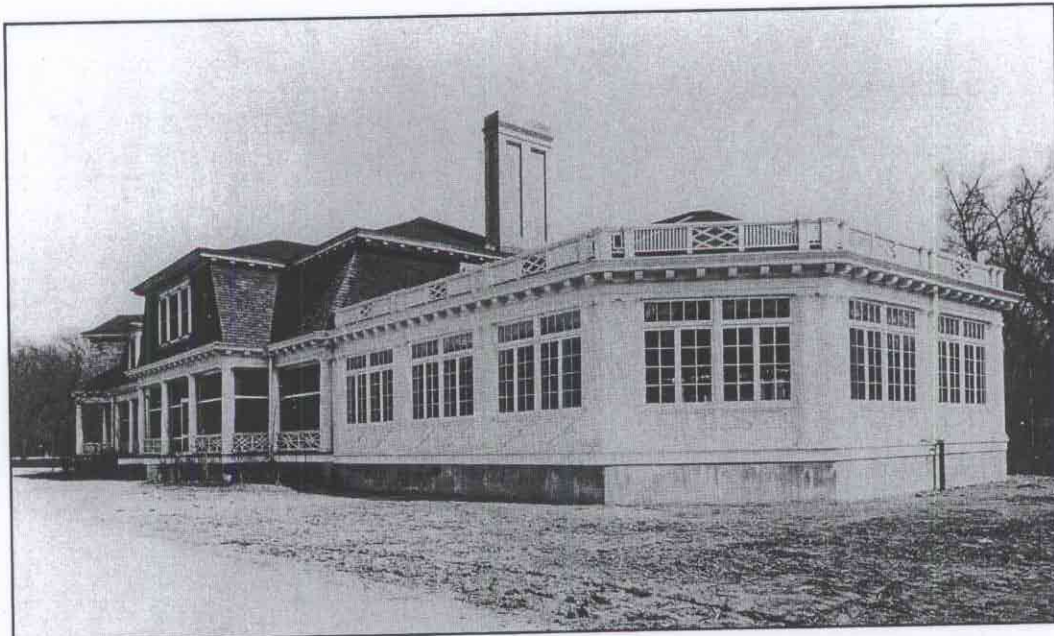
One of the unusual and distinguishing features of the Rock Island Arsenal golf course is the roadway skirting every link, enabling spectators in carriages to follow the entire course of play from the first tee to the eighteenth green. These roads frequently pass thru the edge of woods bounding the links, and afford picturesque glimpses of the course, the Arsenal shops, the river, and the cities beyond. The fair green is unusually good, and the links generally are of more than the average width. While fairly level, there is sufficient variation of ground to relieve monotony, and with the forest, occasionally quite dense, bordering a number of links, the course is most attractive. All the greens are over one hundred feet square - or round - and, while most of them are level, a few are sufficiently rolling to call for unusual putting skill.



Men golfers and caddies at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club circa 1906.



The Rock Island Arsenal Golf Clubhouse with automobiles in the driveway in 1920.



The Grand Ballroom Room was added to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Clubhouse in 1920.

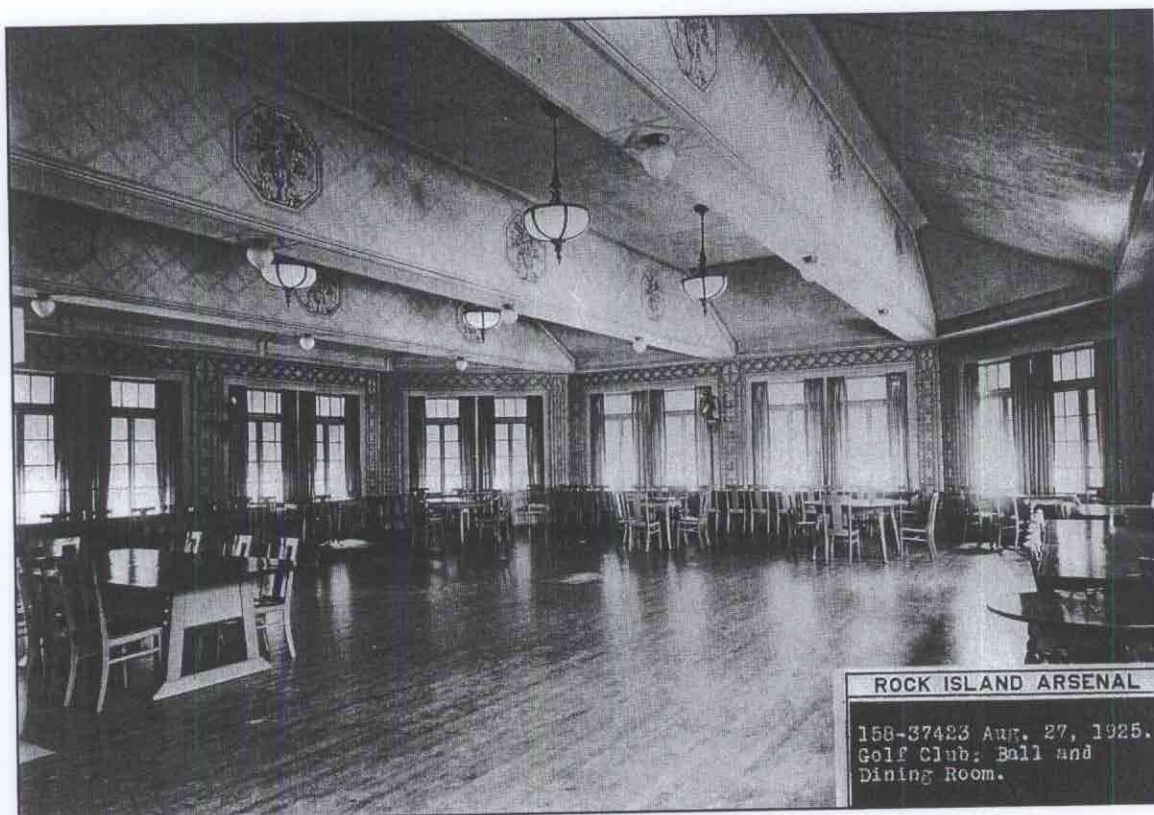
ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB - THE YEARS PAST

In the years past, many prominent Quad City residents have been members of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club which is considered one of the finest in the country and has been the scene of several celebrated tournaments. There were numerous distinguished individuals of the Quad Cities who became members of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club during the height of the Industrial Revolution in this area from 1895 to 1920. American cities at that time in our history experienced dramatic changes. The cities of Rock Island, Moline, and Davenport were transformed from boisterous river towns of the nineteenth century to thriving urban centers in the twentieth century¹⁶. The population during that era almost doubled. To accommodate its celebrated members and their guests more elegantly, the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was renovated and built an addition to the clubhouse which still serves as the Grand Ballroom today.

In 1922, the five cities, named together with their suburbs, generally known as the Tri-City community, had a combined population of over 150,000 according to the 1920 census. There were a number of companies in the Tri-City area which did business all over the world. This was the center for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Deere & Company, The Moline Plow Company, and Rock Island Plow Company had been leaders in their field with a combined capital of more than \$100,000,000. Users of plows at that time associated with them the name Moline. Rock Island was famous for its transcontinental railroad, as well as the greatest Arsenal in this country, and in many respects the most complete and spacious military manufacturing and storage establishment on the globe. A number of large industrial complexes performed a similar function for Davenport, East Moline, and Bettendorf¹⁷.

Although the Tri-City community is located a thousand miles from the ocean, it had an extensive foreign business. Aside from farm implements, many industrial firms did business overseas, such as Western Pump Company, Davenport Locomotive Works, Gordon-Van Tine Company, Red Jacket Manufacturing Company, Victor Animatograph Company, Linograph Company, Purity Oats Company, and Western Flour Mills of Davenport; Rock Island Manufacturing Company, Rock Island Stove Company, Rock Island Sash and Door Company, Franks Manufacturing Company, and Standard Textile Products Company of Rock Island; Williams, White & Company and National Licorice Company of Moline; and the Troy Laundry Machinery Company, the E. & T. Fairbanks Company of East Moline; and the Bettendorf Company of Bettendorf.

The famous Velie Motor Cars, which were manufactured by the Velie Motors Corporation; the "R & V," manufactured by the R. & V. Motor Company; and the "Stephens," manufactured by the Moline Plow Company, were known internationally as high-class automobiles, backed by reliable, progressive and time-tried concerns. The largest washing machine factories in the world were located in Davenport, Iowa. They were Voss Brothers Manufacturing Company, the White Lily Manufacturing Company, and the Brammer Manufacturing Company. This industry had its birth in Davenport.



The Grand Ballroom at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1925.

When World War I began in 1914, Rock Island had a population of 13,400 inhabitants. During the height of the war, the Arsenal alone employed 13,263 workers. There were elegant homes, especially on 20th Street. There were thirty manufacturing companies, several brewing companies, the Rock Island Stove Company, the Rock Island Lumber Company, and the Rock Island Iron Works. It had an interurban railway system that not only stopped in Milan, Coal Valley, and Cambridge, but also Taylor Ridge, and went as far south as Macomb. It had three roundhouses and four railway depots. The city had streetcars, an amusement park, eighteen churches, a hospital, a post office, sixty wholesalers and retailers, five hotels, a county court house, a dozen schools, a public library, three banks, five newspapers, several print shops, an opera house, and a jail.

In 1895, there were 30,000 inhabitants in Davenport. Thirty years later, there were nearly 60,000 in that city. There were two railroad bridges across the Mississippi River. Aside from the two-track Government bridge which was used by the Rock Island Railroad, there was the Crescent Railroad Bridge used by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. After World War I, the Union Station was completed. Commercial activities prospered in the retail business downtown. The dominance of J.H.C. Petersen and Sons Department Store was challenged in 1898 by the completion of the new Boston Store owned by R.H. Harned and C.J. VonMaur. Retailers, such as, W.T. Grant, F.W. Woolworth's and S.S. Kresge's came to Davenport in the early twenties. Downtown Davenport took on the appearance of a modern city. There were ten and twelve-story office buildings, such as the McManus, Putnam, Parker and Kahl Buildings, banks, and hotels. Doctors, lawyers, dentists, insurance agents and an army of office workers filled the new suites with pride in their downtown location. The Hotel Davenport was completed in 1907, and the Hotel Black Hawk was finished in 1915. Bank clearings rose from \$29 Million in 1895 to \$684 Million in 1929. After the lumber industry disappeared, mill workers were employed in commercial bakeries, pearl button factories, the world's largest macaroni factory, sugar factories, dozens of cigar factories, and washing machine companies.

The membership roster of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was filled with and still represents today leading figures of the communities on both sides of the river. When the newly-constructed swimming pool at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was formally opened on Thursday, July 15, 1935, the day was filled with a festive atmosphere for 225 members and their guests attired in the latest summer finery. There was dining, dancing and swimming. Florence Applequist, staff writer for The Argus described the festivities as follows:

The beauty and practicality of the newly-constructed facility for enjoyment of the water sports won the enthusiastic acclaim of the many socially prominent Tri-City residents. The pool was illuminated, and the bathers, garbed in colorful ultra-modern suits, demonstrated their ability at the aquatic sport in comfortable lawn furniture conveniently arranged at the sides. Following a promenade around the pool, one discovered many enjoying the dance music of Al Baumann's orchestra in the ballroom directly north of the pool. Madame Fashion herself prevailed in the many stunning gowns in evidence throughout the evening. Mrs. Walter A. Rosenfield of Rock Island appeared in dubonnet red chiffon with a blue silk sash at the waist. The Misses Lorna and Evalena Anderson of Rock Island were attractive in pink crepe and blue organdy, respectively. Mrs. John H. Ruhl, the former Miss Sally Price of Davenport, was gowned in a simple but effective flower chiffon. Stunning also were Mrs. Harry Getz of Moline and Mrs. Robert D. Marshall of Rock Island in flowered silk. Among many other guests enjoying the gaiety were Mrs. Ardo

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB LADIES' CHAMPIONS

Year - Winner

1897 - No Tournament
 1898 - Mrs. W.H. Martin
 1899 - Mrs. C.P. Skinner
 1900 - Miss E.D. Nott
 1901 - Mrs. W.H. Martin
 1902 - Miss E.D. Nott
 1903 - Mrs. C.P. Skinner
 1904 - Miss E.D. Nott
 1905 - Mrs. C.P. Skinner
 1906 - Miss E.D. Nott
 1907 - Miss L.C. Hagans
 1908 - Miss Nancy Grace
 1909 - Miss E. Allen
 1910 - Miss Nancy Grace
 1911 - Miss E. Allen
 1912 - Miss E. Allen
 1913 - Miss E. Allen
 1914 - Miss E. Allen
 1915 - Miss E. Allen
 1916 - Miss E. Allen
 1917 - Miss E. Allen
 1918 - No Tournament
 1919 - Miss E. Allen
 1920 - No Tournament
 1921 - No Tournament
 1922 - Mrs. C.D. Waterman
 1923 - Mrs. H.A. Knox
 1924 - Mrs. E.G. Don
 1925 - Mrs. C.D. Waterman
 1926 - Mrs. C.E. Robb
 1927 - Mrs. H.C. Good
 1928 - Mrs. H.C. Good
 1929 - Mrs. C.D. Waterman
 1930 - Mrs. Chas. Shuler Jr.

Year - Winner

1931 - Mrs. E.G. Don
 1932 - Mrs. C.D. Waterman
 1933 - Mrs. C.D. Waterman
 1934 - Mrs. H. T. Horst
 1935 - Miss Day Waterman
 1936 - Grace Ade Ebi
 1937 - Mrs. C.D. Waterman
 1938 - Mrs. C.D. Waterman
 1939 - Miss Louise Fisher
 1940 - No Tournament
 1941 - No Tournament
 1942 - No Tournament
 1943 - No Tournament
 1944 - No Tournament
 1945 - Elsie VonMaur
 1946 - Marion Mills
 1947 - Marion Mills
 1948 - Nelle Staats
 1949 - Marion Mills
 1950 - Jean Totten
 1951 - Nelle Staats
 1952 - Rosemary Mueller
 1953 - Nelle Staats
 1954 - Jean Totten
 1955 - Rosemary Mueller
 1956 - Marion Mills
 1957 - Rosemary Mueller
 1958 - Rosemary Mueller
 1959 - Rosemary Mueller
 1960 - Rosemary Mueller
 1961 - Rosemary Mueller
 1962 - Rosemary Mueller
 1963 - Marion Mills
 1964 - Rosemary Mueller

Year - Winner

1965 - Jean Totten
 1966 - Jean Totten
 1967 - Delores Simmons
 1968 - Pearl Rector
 1969 - Jean Totten
 1970 - Mary Jo Kuhl
 1971 - Pearl Rector
 1972 - Pearl Rector
 1973 - Pearl Rector
 1974 - Jean Totten
 1975 - Jean Totten
 1976 - Sue Boeye
 1977 - Sue Boeye
 1977 - Pearl Rector Hacker
 1978 - Pearl Rector Hacker
 1979 - Sue Boeye
 1980 - Sue Boeye
 1981 - Sue Boeye
 1982 - Sue Boeye
 1983 - Sue Boeye
 1984 - Sue Boeye
 1985 - Pearl Rector Hacker
 1986 - Kay Schnepf
 1987 - Sue Boeye
 1988 - Sue Boeye
 1989 - Sue Boeye
 1990 - Pauline Fisher
 1991 - Sue Boeye
 1992 - Nicole Schwarz
 1993 - Nicole Schwarz
 1994 - Sue Boeye
 1995 - Meghan Spero
 1996 - Meghan Spero

Mitchell, Rock Island, who wore a flattering brown and white organdy. Miss Marion Mitchell was chic in pale pink chiffon. Peg Seiffert of Moline was gowned in a becoming dubonnet red chiffon, and the popular Miss Nora Hass was seen in a white crepe gown. Among the out-of-town guests was Miss Jane Simmons of Toledo, Ohio, who is visiting in the D. Nelson home in Davenport.

A hundred eighty-five members and their guests enjoyed the buffet supper served in the ballroom and on the porch at 7:30 pm. Private parties consisted of those given by Captain and Mrs. Henry Berbert of Rock Island, who entertained 16 guests, among whom were Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Gillespie, Commandant of the Arsenal, and Miss Gillespie; Charles Esplin, Rock Island, had a party of 12, and the Misses Elise Brown, Moline, and Phyllis Rosenfield, Rock Island, were hostesses to 32 members of the younger set. The remainder of the dinners were served at dutch treat tables. It was announced that the swimming pool will be open every day from 10:30 in the morning until 7:00 o'clock at night with the exception of Thursdays, when a club night will be sponsored including dancing and swimming, the pool to be open until 11 o'clock.

The President of the Velie Corporation, Willard Velie, was one of the original members of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. He paid his \$5.00 dues in 1897. Two years later, his dues were \$15.00 and he purchased a family ticket for \$5.00. At the turn of the century, in 1900, Velie rented two lockers in the clubhouse for \$2.00. A tournament trophy for the men called the Velie Cup was named in his honor. To honor the women, the Waterman Cup was initiated by Elsie VonMaur, daughter of the firm, Petersen-Harned-VonMaur, in the early forties. Mrs. VonMaur was Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Champion in 1945 and runner-up the following year. She was again runner-up in 1948 and 1952. Here are some of her comments¹⁸:

I started the "Waterman Cup" with Marion Mills for Betty Waterman, because she had been champion of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club eight times between the years 1922 and 1939. The tournament was and is still today serious golf for women only. After all, the men had the "Velie Cup". Every Friday night there was a two-ball tournament. It is a mixer for men and women. You had a partner and went out with another couple. You played every other shot. If the lady drove off the tee, the man would take the next shot. After the game, we went into the club house, without changing our clothes, gather at the pool, or around the fire, and had a good time telling stories and singing songs. It was a lot of fun. Clara Lorenzen, who died just recently, she was one of those who loved to get up and sing: "I got a mother-in-law, she is bad, she got caught in a folding bed. Now every time, my mother-in-law you see, the boys all come to me, to rent my folding bed, they all have mother-in-laws, you see, la de la, la la," and she would bring the house down. And then some one else would get up and do all sorts of funny things. We had a wonderful time. It was a small group. Among them were Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Wiman, and Mrs. Mitchell. We called them the "Court". They would watch all the shenanigans we would put on, laugh, and have a good time.

During the Fortieth Anniversary of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, Burton F. Peek, an Administrator of Deere and Company in Moline, addressed the members of the club on October 28, 1937, and welcomed the new president of the club, Colonel Norman F. Ramsey, who handed out the trophies. Peek spoke of the early history of the club because he was one of the original guests of then Commanding Officer, Colonel Stanhope Blunt. Blunt invited a group of his friends to the Island to introduce a new and strange pastime which he said was called "Golf". It consisted in driving, or otherwise propelling, with instruments ill-contrived for the purpose, a small ball across the pasture land and into a hole formed by sinking something that looked like a tomato can into the ground. There were several guests who had been baseball players and tennis players. They looked with skepticism upon this alleged